

# ASPIRA, Inc. OF NEW JERSEY



## EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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MARGARET ROSARIO-RIVERA  
CHAIRPERSON

FERNANDO FUENTES  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CARLOS J. ALMA

DENNIS ALVARADO

GENE CALDERON

ELVIN J. CHESPO, ESQ.

AGUSTIN CRUZ

MAY SAMUEL A. DELGADO

NANCY ALEJANDRO DILLARD

WALTER A. OLIVERAS, ESQ.

GEORGE SANTIAGO, JR.

LUIS A. SANTIAGO

LYDIA SANTOS

DELIA SOSA

ALBERTO TORRES

NOEMI VELAZQUEZ

## ASPIRA, INC. OF NEW JERSEY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APRIL 19, 1993

### MINUTES

390 Broad Street  
Newark, NJ

ASPIRA, Inc. of New Jersey  
Board Room

**Present:** Margie Rosario-Rivera, Chairperson  
Luis Santiago, George Santiago,  
Walter Oliveras, Nancy Dillard,  
Gene Calderon, Noemi Velazquez,  
Lydia Santos

**Absent:** Carlos Alma, Dennis Alvarado,  
Samuel Delgado, Delia Sosa,  
Alberto Torres, Agustin Cruz

**Staff:** Fernando Fuentes, Roberto Del Rios,  
Frank Hernandez, Carmen Sanchez.

### I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

The Board of Directors went into closed session.

### II. Waiver of Notice

All board members indicated that they were all  
duly notified of the meeting.

### III. Approval of Minutes

Luis Santiago moved for the approval of minutes  
of the February 15, 1993 board meeting with  
corrections. Gene Calderon seconded the motion.  
The motion was approved unanimously.

### IV. Chairperson's Report

M. Rosario-Rivera informed the Board that  
during the months of March and April she has

attended a number of activities representing ASPIRA. Most notably were the reception in honor of Dr. Hilda Hildalgo and Trenton Board of Education meeting. Ms. Rosario-Rivera indicated that the Trenton Board of Education received ASPIRA warmly and are looking forward to future collaborations.

Ms. Rosario-Rivera highlighted that the activities she attends are intended for Public Advocacy. She reminded Board Members that when they are attending any activity that they should make every attempt to inform the coordinators of the activity that they are representing ASPIRA.

Ms. Rosario-Rivera was informed that the ASPIRA Profiles show aired on Gateway Cablevision show. Responses have been positive.

Ms. Rosario-Rivera informed the Board that she attended a meeting for Carlos Alma in regards to possible cutback of New Jersey Network's Images/Imagenes show. Petitions were circulated at the meeting to provide support to Imagenes. Board members were also given petitions to complete. Completed petitions should be sent to Carmelo Figueroa of the ASPIRA staff.

Lastly, Ms. Rosario-Rivera informed the Board that the attempt to have counseling staff unionized was not successful.

#### V. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Fuentes introduced staff member Frank Hernandez. Mr. Hernandez, the A.P.P.L.P Facilitator, presented on the ASPIRA Public Policy Leadership Program.

After Mr. Hernandez presentation R. Del Rios provided a statistical overview of the current student caseload. ASPIRA is increasing it's services to an ethnically diverse population. Ms. Rosario-Rivera indicated that we should continue to do this but we also must ensure that we not jeopardize our mission.

The Board was also informed of major upcoming activities.

Ms. Carmen Sanchez, Fiscal Officer, continued the Executive Director's report by provided the Board with a fiscal update on program expenditures and received income. Comparison to last year's

revenues and expenses is being requested on a quarterly basis.

Mr. Fuentes concluded the Executive Director's report by informing the Board that he has been having numerous meetings with various funding sources. In particular Mr. Fuentes indicated that signs of some funding from the City of Newark through the Community Development Block Grant may be possible. An upcoming meeting with the Victoria Foundation will also be held.

Mr. Fuentes also informed the Board that he has approached the Essex County Executive Office and Senator Ronald Rice to assist in securing a tenat for the first floor. Senator Rice also suggested contacting the State Treasury's office.

The Board was informed that the Federal Talent Search Program is up for renewal. It appears that the Department of Education wishes to fund Talent Search Program for a period of up to four years.

Mr. Fuentes expressed to the Board his concern regarding the space in the Paterson Center. The office is in an inadequate location with very little visibilty. Luis Santiago suggested that Mr. Fuentes contact Daniel Jara, President of the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, for assistance.

Outreach to schedule a meeting with the Jersey City and Paterson Superintendent of Schools has not been successful. Letters requesting meetings were sent.

Mr. Fuentes informed the Board that he would be attending a meeting with Janice Petrovich at E.T.S. on tuesday, April 20, 1993. Ms. Rivera-Rosario suggested that Mr. Fuentes inquire about the status of the present President of E.T.S. Afterwards a letter should be sent to him regarding ASPIRA's support. Ms. Rosario-Rivera also requested that dates be secured at E.T.S. for the summer Board Retreat. Weekends in late July or Early August (except 8/5-7) were considered for the retreat.

#### VI. ASPIRA Student Advisory Board

Lydia Santos informed the Board that the ASAB met the previous week to discuss ways of improving the ASAB. She informed the Board of the discussion that took place. Walter Oliveras requested that Ms. Santos submit her report to him by May 5, 1993 for follow-up. A meeting has been scheduled on that

date to discuss the structure and implementation of the ASAB with Reinaldo Cortes and Roberto Del Rios.

#### VII. Old Business

Latino Male Conference - no decision was made as to pursue the planning of this activity. Ms. Rosario-Rivera has not seen a time line or budget for this event. This conference may need to be re-scheduled a third time.

Twenty Fifth Anniversay Gala - Presently ASPIRA has received three quotations to host the event at either the Ramada Renaissance in East Brunswick, the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick and the Grand Marquis in Old Bridge. Goya Foods CEO Mr. Unanue has agreed to serve as the master of ceremonies, however, no dollar commitment has been discussed.

Ms. Rosario-Rivera did express a concerned that the Development Committee has not met to discuss this event. No time line with objectives have been developed. Ms. Rosario-Rivera does not want ASPIRA to be placed into a situation where all necessary activities are being left to the last minute especially when tentative dates are being secured for September, 1993.

Ms. Rosario-Rivera indicated that a decision must be made by April 30th to either pursue both the Latino Males Conference and the 25th Gala, postpone one and direct all Board effort to the other, or postpone both events. Ms. Rosario-Rivera reminded the Board that these two activities are Board driven. She directed the vice chairs of programs and development to develop a draft plan of action that will be submitted to each board member to consider and a telephone poll will be taken before the May 17th Board Meeting.

Board Vacancies - Board members were asked to take home the resumes of candidates who have applied for ASPIRA Board membership. By May 10th each Board member should have prepared a statement as to why or why not candidate(s) should be considered for Board membership and submit to Ms. Rosario-Rivera.

#### VIII. New Business -

Newark Board of Education State takeover - according to sources in the Department of Education no decision will be rendered until Commissioner Fitzgerald has an opportunity to read the report submitted by the external review team.

ASPIRA Endowment - Ms. Rosario-Rivera suggested that the Executive Board meet to discuss matters to the ASPIRA Endowment Foundation. A full board meeting will be held at the May meeting.

IX: Adjournment -

Gene Calderon moved to adjourn the meeting. Luis Santiago seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 .m.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY, MAY 17, 1993 AT 6:00 P.M.

Addendum to Board Minutes  
From M. Rivera

\* Please be on time, The Board meeting will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m.. If you will be late or not in attendance call the Board Chairperson

\* L. Santiago, G. Santiago, N. Dillard-Alejandro, there will be a brief meeting for you beginning at 5:30 p.m. on 5/17/93

\* Board applications for membership must include a completed application and resume before they can be reviewed by the Board.